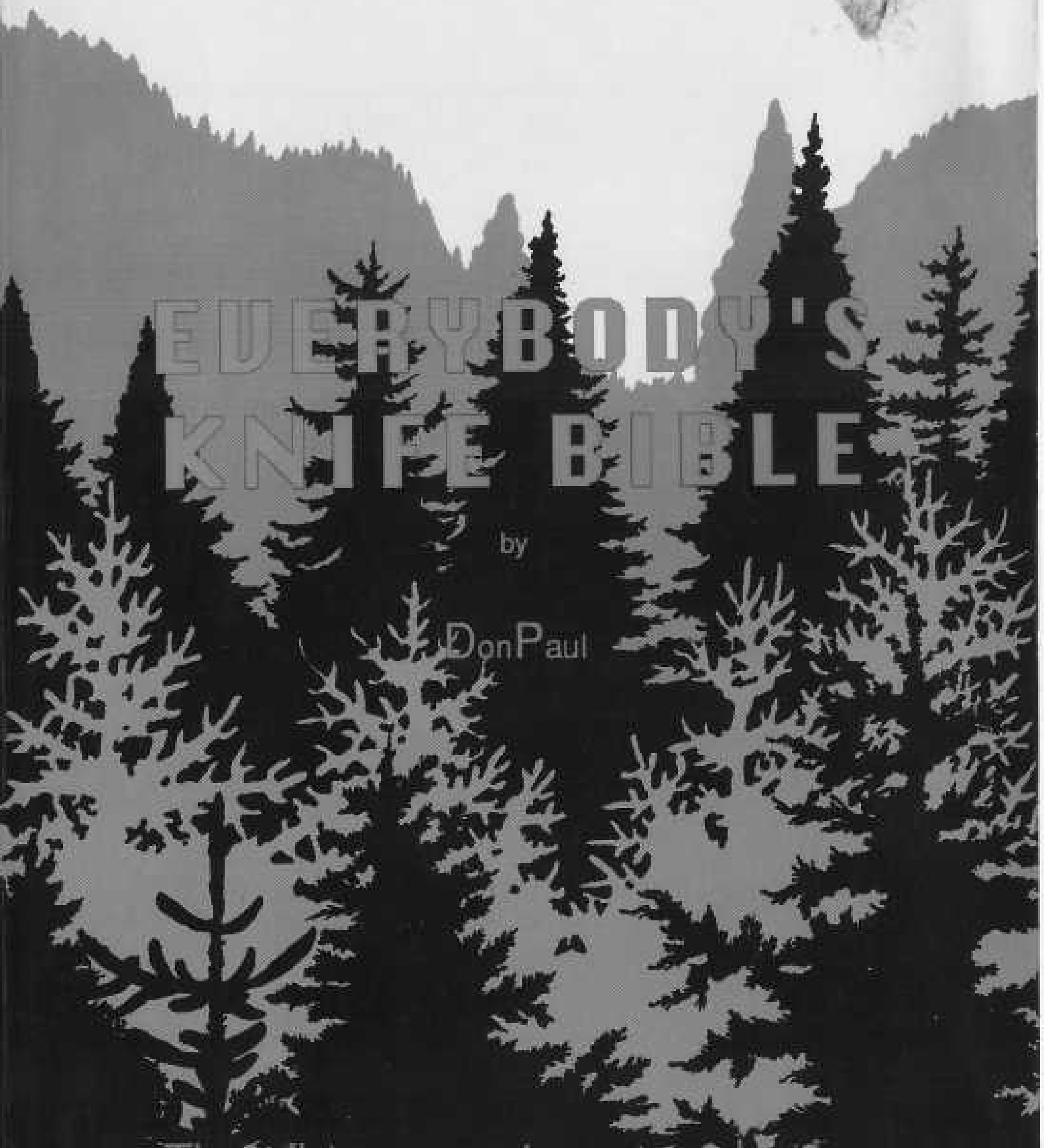


EVERYBODY'S KNIFE BIBLE

by

DonPaul

The all new way to use and enjoy
your knives in the great outdoors.

3rd Edition

Revised, expanded and illustrated

Path Finder Publications
1296 E. Gibson Rd, Suite 301, Woodland, CA 95695

On the move over obstacles in the Oregon woods. With our Compass system, you can bee-line back to your starting point without having to back track. With our modifications to your knife from this book, life in the woods will be easy.

EVERYBODY'S KNIFE BIBLE

by

DonPaul

All new ways to use and enjoy
your knives in the great outdoors.

3rd Edition
Revised, expanded and illustrated

Includes: Special instruction on self defense.for women.
Latest sharpening tips to make
your knife cut like a razor.

Photography: T McLaughlin et al
Cover Design: Sunny Woods Paul

WHY WE USE "BIBLE" IN OUR TITLE

After reading my Bible, I'm convinced. It's the inspired Word of our Creator, and it teaches men and women how to live successfully—-in right relationship to others and to God. The founders of my country believed that too. This book teaches you how to get along in the outdoors successfully with your knife in right relationship with others and Nature, so I called it a bible. But this book doesn't even come close to doing for knives what the real Bible does for people. Read the real Bible; you'll see what I mean.

© Don Paul and Path Finder. *Wir sprechen auch Deutsch, und haben es vor, dieses Buch zu übersetsen. Tambien hablamos Espanol , y lo vamos a traducir.*

COPYRIGHT: Pathfinder Publications and Don Paul, 1986, 1988 & 1991. Our book buyers are allowed to reproduce and enjoy our clinometers, our light system for sheaths and knife handles, and our drillings for knife aiming, etc., **but not for commercial purposes**. All rights to commercial manufacture of our plans and innovations are reserved.

PUBLISHER'S CATALOGING IN PUBLICATION
Paul, Don 1937---
Everybody's Knife Bible, the all-new way to use and enjoy your knives in the great outdoors. / by Don Paul. 3rd Edition.
Includes index.
ISBN: 0-938263-13-7
1. Woodcraft, outdoors. 2. Craftsmanship, outdoors, Guide-books.
3. Outdoor Sports. I. Title. II. Title: Everybody's Knife Bible.
Iii. Use your knives in the outdoors.
PN147.P3 1992 796.042
GV191.7.P38.1992

Library of Congress Catalog Number: LC 92-80509

ISBN 0-938263-13-7

Path Finder Publications
1296 E. Gibson Suite E-301, Woodland, Calif 95695

INTRODUCING. . .

OUTDOOR BOOKS by PATH FINDER PUBLICATIONS

New method books for outdoors people.

Once you own any of our books, you can get a new, updated copy for half price, no matter why. If your book drowns or gets eaten by a goat, send us what's left of your old copy. (we'll pay postage on the new one) Even if you need to use the pages to make a fire in the woods, save a few burnt offerings and get back to us.

Path Finder began over 10 years ago. We first invented a way never to get lost in the woods without using a map; it's called, *The Green Beret's Compass Course, Never Get lost.* Over 25,000 copies are in print.

Next, we added to our book list and widened our distribution. We published:

Everybody's Outdoor Survival Guide
Great Livin' in Grubby Times
24 + Ways to Use Your Hammock in the Field.

We develop and write about all kinds of new ideas and outdoor methods. We're the innovative people who wrote about:

√A 30¢ two ounce wilderness bed for sleeping above ground.

√The modification for your hunting knife sheath which enables you to see the floor of a jungle at night.

√A new shooting system to give you super bullet placement, day or night.

√Escape and evasion, taught by an honor Army Ranger Grad.

√Life saving, simple procedures for self defense.

√Terrain analysis for saving energy as you travel on foot over rough country.

√A new cold-weather survival method to keep you alive anywhere.

√A guide to water purification for any survivalist.

√How to use animals to double your survive-ability.
√Wind reading for super long distance shooting.
√Green Beret team concepts applied to survival groups so you can enjoy the ultimate life-style outdoors.

All of our books have gone into multiple editions. Most major outdoor magazines have reviewed our books and our systems have been adopted by many outdoor organizations. We've been represented by over 500 dealers and we've supplied our books by mail order to outdoorsmen from all over the world.

We use independent editors and electronic manuscript scrubbers to make our books quick readers. Pictures and illustrations make our concepts easy to understand. We're care about saving your time.

We just don't want to publish words; we want to supply the newest, most innovative information we can. Hopefully, that's what we did in this book.

We plan to publish *AMMO FOREVER,* a simplified reloading guide for survivalists, *THE COMPLETE SELF DEFENSE MANUAL* and a second *EVERYBODY'S KNIFE BIBLE (BOOK II)* featuring over a hundred ways to use your knives during 1992.

(See the order coupons in the back of this book.)

HANG ON NOW, AND LET US SHOW YOU HOW TO USE YOUR MOST BASIC OUTDOOR TOOLS--- YOUR INDISPENSABLE KNIVES

EVERYBODY'S KNIFE BIBLE

3rd Edition

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION: **Why a new knife bible?** Knives need improvement. Here's how to improve yours, bring it into the future, and let it lead you through the woods.

Chapter 1 **Converting your knife into a super outdoor tool..** Our new copyrighted degree plates enable your knife to tell what time it is, estimate cliff or tree heights, figure river widths, **plus** a load of of other outdoor tricks. We furnish you with a free copy of our clinometers. 5

Chapter 2. **How to double your knives' performance.** Why not teach your knife to do more than cut? We make it chop like an axe, signal, light up your path, **and more,** with easy modifications. 19

Chapter 3. **How to choose the kinds of knives you need.** From big blades to small, folders to sheaths; from new inventions to old, we explain the choices and how they work. Also, specialty knives explained. Are they worth it? 29

Chapter 4. **The cutting edge; how to keep it sharp.** Dull knives are dangerous. Too busy to sharpen yours? **Suture Self!** 55

Chapter 5. **Making your knife feed you.** In the habit of eating? Let your knife provide. Here's how, from U.S. venison to South Pacific coconut. 69

Chapter 6. **Make your knife make---all you need.** Surprise! Keep your knife risk free while making all the creature comforts in the woods. The finest outdoor bed for under a dollar. Here's how. 79

Chapter 7. **Design factors in blades.** Some knife points are dull, but you need to know about metals, heat treatment, edges, etc. 93

Chapter 8. **Size and Shape in blades.** Shape and size are often the difference between success and failure. 97

Chapter 9. **Getting a handle on handles.** Improve your knife handle so it does more than before. We show you how. 103

Chapter 10. **Ways and means to carry your knife.** Some exposed, some concealed. Off your belt, up side down, quick release, in your boot, up your sleeve, behind your back, and a few more. 111

Chapter 11. **Staying alive; the knife as defender.** Four basic rules for self defense. Simple, life-saving methods. 115

Chapter 12. **Never molested; the knife defends women.** Special attention to a growing problem. **Never** be the victim. How to estimate danger, and what to do! 119

Chapter 13. **No kidding; sharp training for kids..** Basic lessons in knife use. Basic safety lessons. Good for adults, too. 127

Chapter 14. **The pivot-action knife axe.** Everything the knife-makers should have included, but left out. The Green Beret author's survival knife design. 129

Chapter 15. **How to buy a knife.** Used, new, foreign, U.S.A., or custom. We show you where to go, and what to look for. 137

Chapter 16. **Make your own custom blade and custom handle.** Starting from scratch and your own design, or from a kit, we show you how to make a custom knife of your very own and save money. 141

GLOSSARY 145

INDEX

APPENDIX / OTHER GREAT KNIFE PUBLICATIONS

INTRODUCTION

WHY A NEW KNIFE BIBLE?

Because today's knives don't do nearly as much as they could and new discoveries in manufacture are newsworthy.

With manufacturers' legal liability making them nail-biting nervous, and with government agencies writing regulations that slow down and impede American production, it doesn't look like we'll see a change in the future. Getting high field performance out of your knives will have to be a do-it-yourself affair.

This is a book about improvement, expansion and new uses in the field of knives. It will make you better than average in the outdoors with a knife. When you read this book, you'll be able to take your knife—any knife, and modify it with unbelievable changes. Your knives will become unique and you'll know how to put them to best use. Pictures and graphic illustrations make this a **quick-reader**. Very few of us have time to dig through complicated pages.

I wrote this book because I've learned enough to produce what might be landmark knowledge about knives. Some friends spent a lot of time with me in the field using these things, and we discovered:

Compared to what knives should do,
today's knives don't.

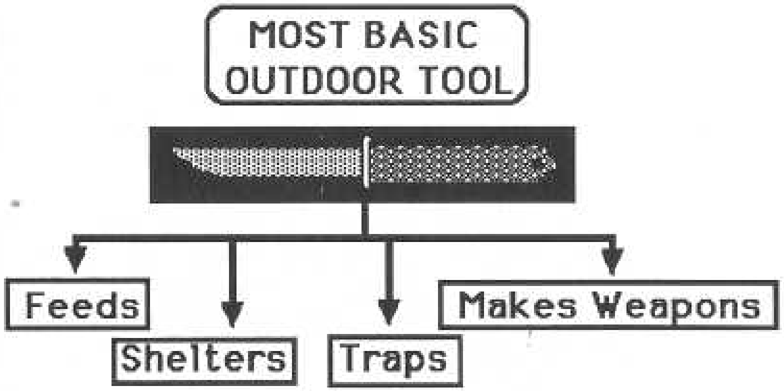
That's too bad. Of all the things you carry into the field with you, your knife is one of the most basic. If it only cuts and slices for you, you're missing a lot of your knife's potential.

Do the people I consulted really know what a knife should do? When a person spends his life working in the woods and jungles of the world, he learns a lot more about knives than the people who sit at desks and design them. It's not that we have an axe to grind (no pun). It's just that we've used these things so long and so often that we are acutely aware of what a knife ought to do—but won't.

What's the reason for modern knives' complete failure to do so many tricks in the woods and jungle? American manufacturers can no longer be as creative as our ancestors. Even though we might know more, we produce less. Many government officials have **no concept of the value of time** because they have found the great eternal resting place, (their job). To us who produce, time is money; to them, a waste of time means money. Therefore, they write counter-productive regulations and slow down our progress.

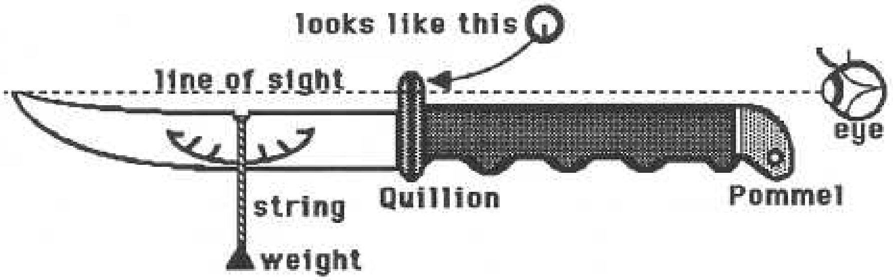
Moreover, broadening the use of any product sometimes increases the chance of injury to the user. The company's insurers get nervous; the rates increase. As soon as product liability insurance goes up, the end product becomes costlier and therefore can't compete. In the case of knives, manufacturers can't think about a knife cutting down a tree; that's too risky. Making a knife to get you across a river safely or measure rapelling rope for you could likewise be legally troublesome.

The shortcomings of today's knives can be fixed. But the manufacturers in this country are not about to pioneer anything which could end up in a courtroom. Would you? Even if you would be so bold as to manufacture anything in this country, at all, would you add to the risk by getting creative?



If you want your knife to do better, **you** fix it. You can make your knife adapt to you—your special outdoor needs, your abilities, and even some wierd uses. You can borrow our ideas—ideas that came about because we sliced, slaughtered, and survived our way out of half the jungles in the world.

We wish you had been with us; probably you do too. But we'll make the best of a lonesome situation and let you borrow from our experience.



One of the many modifications found throughout this book. You'll be able to do dozens of new outdoor tricks with your knife. Note hole in pommel, for example. The hole in the pommel allows you to pull your knife out of anything with a force more than twenty times greater than you could by only gripping the handle. Similar hole in quillion makes knife a sighting device.

Now, your knife will take you to a lot of places other people can't go. It will procure more food, make more things and provide more comfort. From now on, you and your knife will be surer, trickier and craftier. Let us take you far beyond and far above what has ever been accomplished before with this ancient tool.

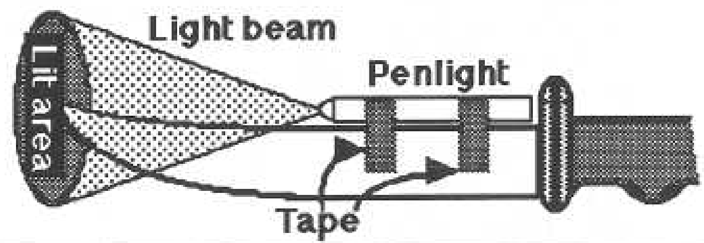
Let's double your knives' usability. Let the knife manufacturers be afraid. It's high time you learned how to let your knives make outdoor magic. And when you do, you'll know that you and your knife together can be the best and most savvy woods and jungle experts in existence. Besides that, you'll learn to carry and use a knife so you can be some of the most secure and safe people in our concrete jungles, too. . .

Speaking of concrete jungles. . . Few things are more attractive to a thief than a knife. Plan on keeping your knife for life. Take the time to inscribe your tang (softer metal) with your I.D. number.

DISCLAIMER

On behalf of you, the reader, I wish to thank the framers of our Constitution of giving us the right of free speech. Because of that, I can write a book about knives which dares to take you beyond what ordinary knives do for you. I wrote this because I wanted you to have a better life with your knife. By extending anyone's ability anywhere, however, there may be some danger. Neither the author nor the publisher wishes to assume any liability for any use or misuse of the information in this book. Oh—-and one more thing—-like the old Sarge on the TV Series, *Hill St Blues* always told us: "Let's be careful out there."

Penlight on blade lights up your night life in the woods.



Night work is so much easier with the cutting area illuminated. Light should be in handle and shine through quillion. But why wait? Become a woods pro now! You can fix up your own knife with this and loads of other features in this book.

Chapter 1

CONVERTING YOUR KNIFE INTO A SUPER OUTDOOR TOOL

Utility to weight ratio is a concept we came up with when we researched and wrote *24+ WAYS TO USE YOUR HAMMOCK IN THE FIELD*. We were looking for a phrase to describe a ratio of multiple uses on an outdoor item to its weight. The higher the ratio, the better the item for survival.

The more things weigh, the more horse or human-power is required to move them. Also, if every item you need in the outdoors only has one use, you'll need to carry a lot of items.

Whether you're gas-powered mobile or you go into the woods on foot, you'll do better with a lighter load and fewer items. Therefore, fix all your outdoor gear so it makes multiple chore magic. Besides that, try to make each outdoor item do tricks nothing else can do for you.

That's what this chapter is about. We're going to show you how to make your sheath do some outdoor magic. More than that, we'll show you how to make your knife do stuff in the woods nobody else can do. For example:

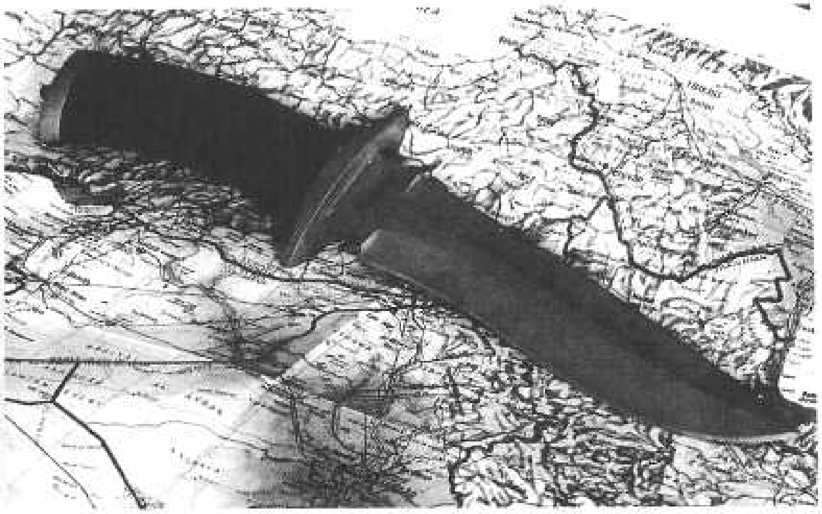
Hot rodders say, "if it doesn't go, chrome it." We feel the same way about knives. "If it won't hold an edge, adorn and engrave it." To us, knives are a tool, and drawing fancy pictures on them doesn't make a lot of sense.

Before folding belt knives came along, a hunting knife was your main cutter. Most big game hunters still prefer them because they do a big job quickly. Anybody who hunts a lot really needs one, because pocket knives are just a little too flimsy for dressing big game. Others will choose the big blade because they chop limbs, make traps and weapons or work as a quick step when driven into a tree. Since the big hunting knife is not going to be your one and only, I recommend it. The bigger the better.

The knife you choose 'n use often depends on how much time you have to field dress the game you bag. The time factor is most critical to a hunter at the end of the day. Here's the problem: You hunt all day when most big game is bedded down. Deer, for example, drop down during the day with a view downwind, then let their nose warn them of approaching man from upwind. This way, they stay somewhat safe. About an hour or so before sundown, they move around to feed. That's when most meet "deer Maker."

Once your game is bagged, your major military mission is to get your meat out of the woods before nightfall. You'll have to cover the distance to your camp or truck in daylight if you have any respect for your shins. If you have to carry it out of the woods in the dark, stumbling will make the meat on your lower legs look something like the animal you just butchered. Also, you'll get lost easier at night (unless you have our *Compass Course Book)*. Thus, many outdoorsmen try to go faster. But it's hard to save time by bookin' thru the woods with over a hundred pound load on your back. Also, it's physically risky; if you twist an ankle, count either on staying out a few extra days, or using your knees for feet.

So, here's the situation report: Aim your knife at the top of the sun quickly and read the daylight left on your clinometer. You have only a certain time to get out of the woods if you want to complete that travel in daylight, plus you'll need time to field dress your groceries.



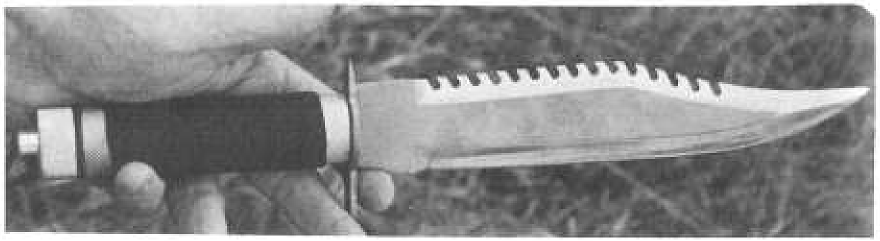
Operation Desert Storm Knife by Bardsley has some great features. Top of knife is straight, and quillion could be drilled for sighting. Thicker spine to the point gives strength for prying. Curved cutting edge helps make this blade a good slicer.

In Oregon, I hunted bear with Jim Minter and his pack of hounds. A bear does all right with hounds as long as he runs downhill. Uphill, however, the dogs use developed hind quarters to close in. Result, the bear usually trees a long way down and a few hundred yards up. By the time I usually arrived at the tree, I'd be spent.

One bear I shot departed this world an hour and a half before sundown. I knew where I was exactly; it would take me an hour and a quarter to get to the main road. My knife told me I only had an hour and a half left before it got dark. It doesn't take an Inspector Clouseau to figure out I only had fifteen minutes to dress that carcass out. Fail to make my dress-out deadline and I would probably dress out my shins in the dark.

That's what happened. Though I didn't need to skin an inch on that bear because the hide and head would go to the taxidermist, all I had with me was a raised point skinning knife. So it took me over a half hour before I could leave. That meant I'd be late, and I would be carrying in the dark. Since I had just hustled 1,700 ft. downhill, then 300 feet back up another hill, I was puppy-dog tired. My shins still bear witness to my poor timing. Scars.

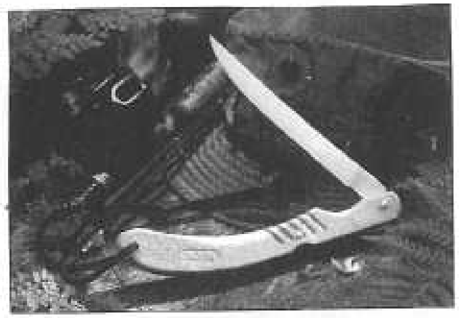
The whole story makes this point: when daylight is fading, you need a knife you can work with—fast and efficiently. Drop point or falling point blades open an animal quickly so you lighten the carry without tainting any meat. Also, you need a hefty blade to cut through hind quarter joints in case you divide the weight or need to make two trips. If the folding belt hunter you carry doesn't do everything you require, carry a bigger blade to put horsepower into your butcher work.



Saw teeth on the back of a blade often weaken it. Here, the blade is long enough to make teeth effective. Clip-shaped point makes this knife a good pole spear attachment. Hollow handle carries survival goodies. Great thong attachment. Handle wrapped in cord provides utility in the field. Any mother wearing combat boots should be proud to own one.

What really do you need in the field? As we taught in *Everybody's Outdoor Survival Guide*, you really need to know how to make a fire. That means chop wood—either by saw or axe.

So—knife makers frequently cut a saw edge on the back of their big knives. But, that's not the best idea. Our book dealers in Alaska tell us that saw tooth knives often break. Where? At a tooth cut. Chop through whatever you need in half; it's faster and easier. I had lunch recently with Jerry Younkins, a prominent knife writer. Rest assured, he does his homework. He tells me you can tap on the back of a blade and thus drive it into a limb as you roll around the sides and press in ever deeper with each tap. It works great and you would be surprised at the size of some limbs he has cut with only a small blade! We designed the PAKA (in this book) with a pivoting handle so you can chop things easily. That's also why we figured out how to move the pivot point behind the knife pommel with a lanyard, and thus chop with more force. Finally, the chopping function is the reason we settled on the Kukri as such a great addition to your regular field knife complement.



FISH AND FILLET IT.

To work on fish best, you need more than one knife blade. You need to take off the scales. You need to cut through the skin (use a box knife, especially on tuna), and you need to cut thin slabs of meat off the bone.

Bigger knives are simply too unwieldy for fish. Use a fillet blade, which is a long, slender, flexible blade with a sharp, fine point and an upswept tip. This last feature gives the knife a sweeping curve so that it fillets with a flip of the wrist while the blade is deep into the meat.

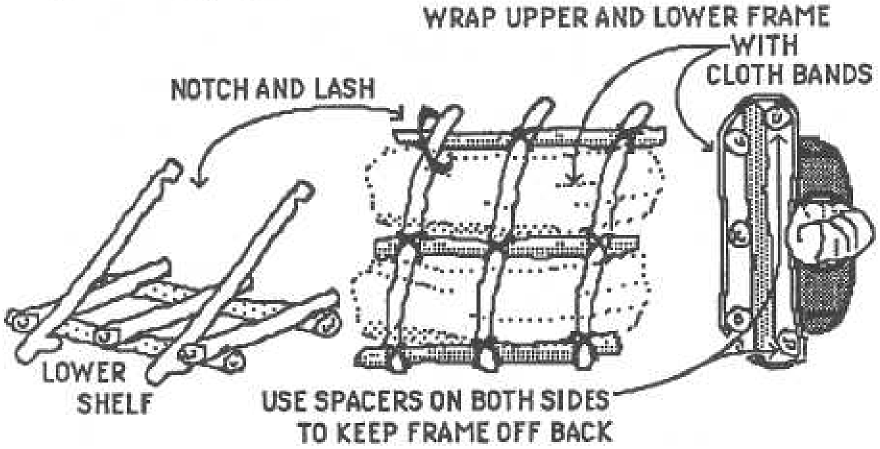
Any fishing or boat knife needs to float. When your hands are full of slime on a rocking boat, your knife has a good chance of slipping out of your hand. If it sinks, wave good-bye. Some knifemakers still confuse their knives with fishing tackle. When a knife hits the water, it shouldn't turn into a sinker. If you bought one of these, drill a hole in the pommel and tie a float on it so you can get it back out of the drink if it slips.

You'll be a lot safer with your knife if its handle has a good grip. I recommend Kraton, that sticky rubber first used by Cold Steel. If your knife handle is some chintzy, small hard black plastic, size it first by adding plastic wood or wrapping the handle—preferably with parachute cord you can use in an emergency.

hungry you wait around to spring the trap yourself. The added net decreases your chances of fasting.

With time and patience, you can make a good, straight bow. Carve the bow and reverse-stress it over heat. After it sets up, bend it backwards and string it.

In Book II of *Everybody's Outdoor Survival Guide*, we devoted a whole chapter to handmade weapons. Almost all of those could be made with a good knife. Just remember—-the ends of those weapons facing the customer get a pointed end; and the ends on your side stay blunt.


WRAP UPPER AND LOWER FRAME WITH CLOTH BANDS
NOTCH AND LASH
LOWER SHELF
USE SPACERS ON BOTH SIDES TO KEEP FRAME OFF BACK

For carrying a heavy load, build a packboard. Cut all the cross members first, and then lash them together with small plastic ties. You can extend the bottom shelf out as much as 6 inches and support it from the top of the frame.

If you get caught in snow unexpectedly, protect your eyes with a knife-hewn pair of snow/sun goggles. Make the slits first to insure that your chosen piece of bark is workable. Dry bark will split. Green bark will make a good pair of eye savers. The trick is in keeping the sight-hole tiny, and rounding the edges to keep the bark from splitting when it dries.

Snowshoes are also a great idea if you get caught in a big storm. If you have a pot, steam the green wood members to bend

the way you need them. You prop the curved portion out with green sticks, and cook (carefully) the whole snowshoe to harden it in place. After that, you can drill or notch the shoe frame to receive the support strings.

Rawhide will be abundantly available if you live in the woods. All the animals wear it, and it never goes out of fashion. So, while roasting dinner, save your hide by using theirs. Of course, make belts and straps and a tumpline. Use a straight edge to make sure you get a straight cut. A leather drilling blade, found notably on most Swiss Army Pocket Knives, will put the proper holes in the leather strapping.

Some girl told me when I was a teen that only two things kept me from dancing well—my feet. The same two things will keep you from operating in the woods—-unless you take care of them.

Given a long-term outdoor survival situation, the shoes on your feet may not last. In another book, we teach you to go into the field with three pair of *Hi-Tech* boots. One of those pair must be able to operate in water without deterioration. Footgear is frequently ruined around water, so you should think about using your knife to make a pair of moccasins. Jeremiah Johnson, the famous 6' 4" mountain-man who lived and survived in the late 1800's, described how he made his moccasins. He used his knives to make two for each foot. The inside was soft and pliable; the outside was made from the thick rump hide of a large animal. History records that his powerful legs could deliver a respectable kick, and that his hard-shelled moccasins were the leading edge of that weapon. He made his point several times.

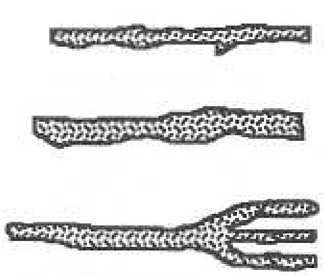
You can do the same. Tan the hide of a young animal with the hair on. Make patterns out of trash material, (newspaper, rags) to fold around your foot and the top of your ankle comfortably. Then use those fitted patterns to outline the cut on the animal hide. The resulting forms fold around your foot. Don't lap the edges—-butt them to one another. Use both leather glue and good nylon thread for stitching.

Once this inside glove for your foot is complete, prepare another for the outside. First, though, think about insulation. The best today is Thinsulate, but you may not be able to locate any.

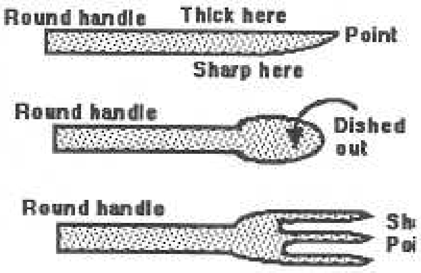
Probably what you will have available, however, is pre-formed solid packing and little peanuts made of Styrofoam used for all kinds of shipping. Slice these and glue together a mosaic pattern all around the mossasins you just form fitted to your foot.

It's best to use a different pattern for the outside moccasin layer. When the stitched and glued joints aren't superimposed, you build in more water resistence. Use the rump hide from a large animal, again with the hair on the outside.

TOOLS MADE WITH YOUR KNIFE



GREEN STICKS

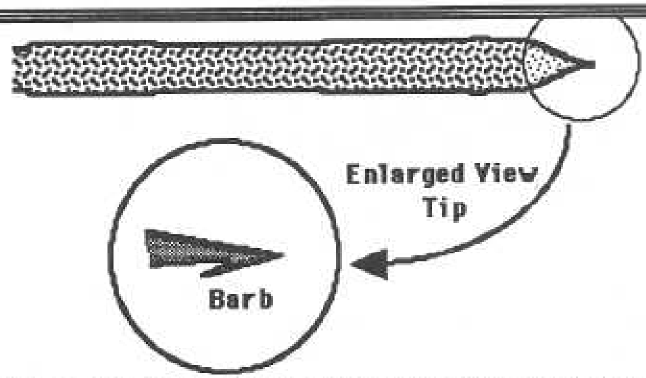


FINAL PRODUCTS

Use your knife to carve eating utensils, preferably out of hardwood. Even if you peel the bark off a sharpened green twig and use it only as a fork, you won't have to eat hot food with dirty hands which can spread bacteria all over your dinner. Whittle a whole set of utensils from hardwood. Be careful not to use a poison wood. Throw some sandpaper in your rucksack to keep splinters from coming off and winding up in your dinner.

The primary utensil you need to make comes from green hardwoord. It's a straight branch about four feet long and one to two inches in diameter. The end of the branch closest to the trunk is the working end. Leave one or two side limbs attached to the main stick. You can slip these over a pot handle and lift anything attached to a coat hanger. You can also use this piece as a fishing spear. Jam it through a fish and the barb holds it on the end for you.

Cut a 2" limb off a tree. Chop a wide angled point on a thick limb with a MachAx, then narrow the angle toward the tip to put a barb on the spear point. Harden the green limb over coals. You can use this as a cooking tool or a fishing spear.

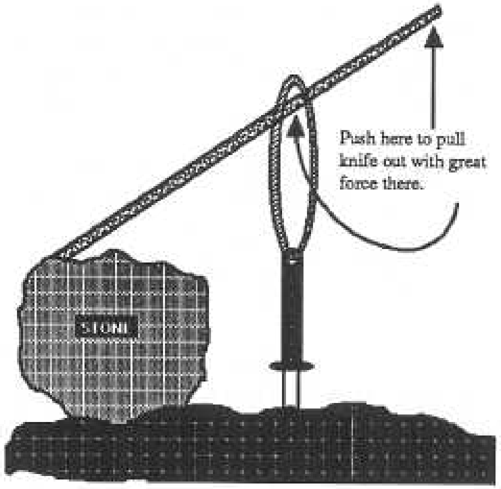


Sharpen the end to a fine (20° or less), point. **Barb the point,** preferably on two sides. Harden that point over coals. In addition to being a useful weapon, you can spear meat on a grill with it and turn it over, or haul it out of the fire to a wooden plank plate.

Likewise, you can rig a turning spindle, and use the curved edge of your knife inside a block of wood to make a bowl or two. Then, with a carved spoon, you're in stew heaven. Likewise, carve a second knife out of hardwood, and it will be useful for cutting softer items, such as bread.

For a great fish trap, you need your knife and a hammock. Use your knife or axe to trim the branches off the tree you choose to spring load. Climb the sapling tree (should be about 6-15 feet high, and tie off the top. Pull the tree down and tie it off to an anchor. Lay your weighted hammock flat on the bottom of a water pool with a loose line attached through the loop on both ends. Wait until dinner swims over the net; then cut the tie-down. To feed more than yourself, double the recipe.

Sooner or later, a pack with shoulder straps will come in handy. I like mine with an extra carrying strap so that I can move it easily. I prefer two of them. The large backpack moves your complete outdoor household goods. Inside that pack is a smaller daypack, which you use for field trips and hunts lasting less than a day long.


Push here to pull knife out with great force there.
STONE

you. Don't leave home without a holey pommel.

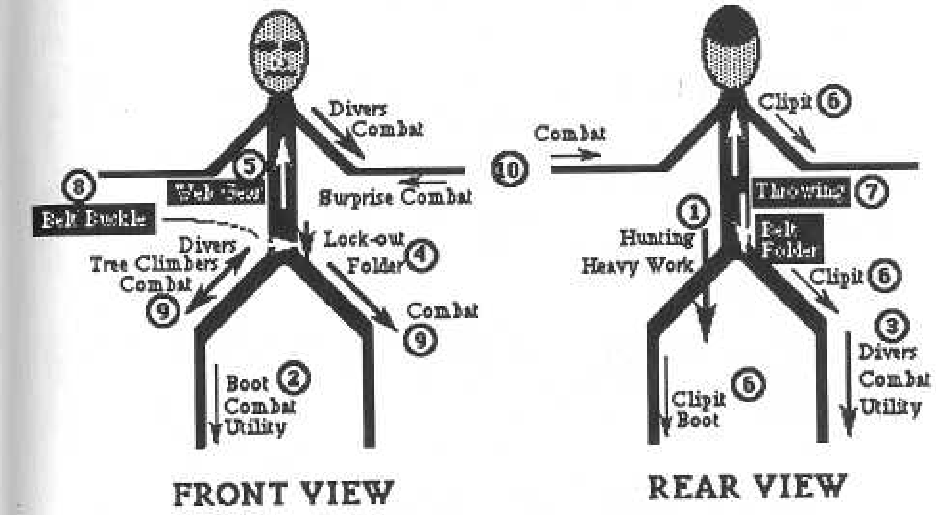
As we mentioned earlier, it is also a good idea to have a pommel hardened for pounding or chipping. It wouldn't cost that much more, and the woods utility would be substantially increased. Just a few, well placed nails in your home away from home will make a world of difference, and a hard, flattened pommel pounds them in with ease. To use your pommel for pounding, you would put a hole in the tip of the sheath to carry a wrist thong. Using the thong with your knife in the sheath would make your complete knife into a hammer.

How about a thong hole? I don't know why, but over half the knife handles I see don't provide that critically valuable addition. A thong doubles your control-ability, secures your knife with a long line to your belt, and allows you to hang your knife within easy reach (especially at night).

Knife handles just don't come out of the box with all the additions we've talked about. That's okay. You can modify most of the knife handles in the world and bring them up to your new standard of excellence.

Do that—and your knife will work far better for you than anything on the market.

BODY MAP FOR KNIFE CARRY


Divers
Combat
⑤
Web Gear
⑧
Belt Buckle
Surprise Combat
Divers
Tree Climbers
Combat
⑨
Lock-out
Folder ④
Combat
⑨
Boot ②
Combat
Utility
FRONT VIEW
⑩
Combat
Clipit ⑥
Throwing ⑦
①
Hunting
Heavy Work
Belt
Folder
Clipit ⑥
③
Divers
Combat
Utility
⑥
Clipit
Boot
REAR VIEW

Chapter 10

WAYS AND MEANS TO CARRY YOUR KNIFE

Even before you attach your knife to your body, you have to wrap it in a safe container, called a sheath.

Leather used to be the thing. Not any more. I like nylon. Leather is heavy; it requires maintenance, and water isn't good for it. On the other hand, nylon can be dyed, is washable, bendable, lighter, etc. That's my choice. Heavy nylon, of course; some of the lightweight stuff will allow the blade to slip through and cut you.

The trick in carrying a knife is to feel **for** it rather than feel it. It's not supposed to make you uncomfortable. But you always want to be able to grab it when you need it.

A lot of how you carry your knife depends on what it will be used for. Most of us use a knife as a tool. Carrying is therefore simple; it just about always hangs on the belt.

But we are only referring to half the belt; that's the half that goes around the back. If you like looking at natural disasters, carry your knife on the front of your belt. All you have to do is bend forward, look down—-and you'll see a natural disaster. You'll also feel it.

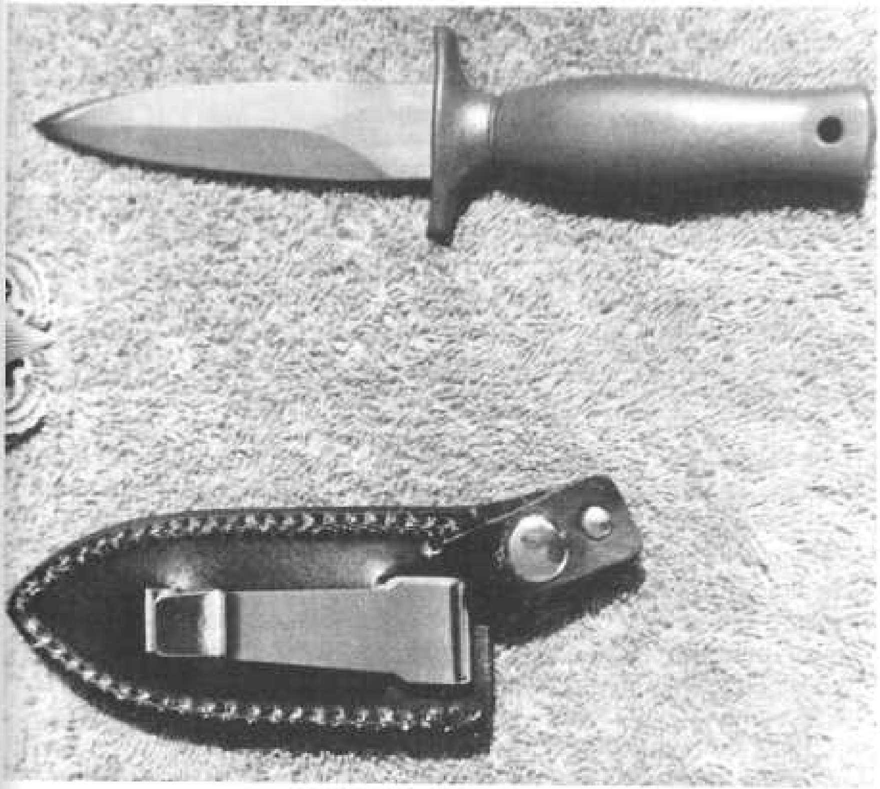
Even better than the back, is your side, especially if you took our advice in chapter 2 and added a penlight. Make sure to modify the hanging loop with a bead of glue so the knife doesn't hang straight down, but forward at an angle so the light shines in that direction and you have an easy grab. Buck produces a 7 1/2" blade in a swivel-sheath. Worn on the side, it can be bent forward to accommodate car seats.

I wore a folder high and to the rear on my belt for a long time, (my ranching years) and never noticed it was there. Since I am right handed, and I often wore a pistol, I placed the sheath just behind my left kidney.

Well, that seemed right, so I also put a Swiss Army knife and a Buck trapper (jammed into the same sheath) right next to the folder. The two stayed side by side, and I had utility very few hunters dream of. When I added a pocket steel, however, (3rd sheath) I noticed the weight, so I backed off.

If you don't want to arouse public interest, think concealment and wear a boot knife. It's a great way to carry a second knife, and it may work for you when you can't reach for your primary. A boot carry isn't the quickest. You have to reach down, pull your trousers up over your knife and then make your grab, which can take forever. Also, boot knives are notorious for pee-wee handles.

That's because a boot knife has to be flat on one side so the handle's edge doesn't dig into your leg. Another reason for a small handle is blade balance, which makes it throw better. But, knives are not for throwing. Get the point now and you won't have somebody stick you with it later.



Boot Knife. Notice the double edge. Get this knife sharp and it will provide super defense because it cuts both left and right. Note the clip on the side of the sheath---made to go on the top rim of your boot on the outside.

If your knife is going to be used for defense, (or war), then you can think about a more exotic way to carry it. Upside down on a field harness is common. Just make sure to tie it in with solder wire so it doesn't come out unless it's invited—-by a strong yank with your hand. For underwater, one of my knives fits on the left shoulder of my diving wetsuit, and it's retained by Velcro.

Concealment is fine, but your knife will only do some good for you when it's in your hand. If you will be in situations where you may need it fast, place it somewhere on your body within arm's reach.

Which arm? It depends on whether or not you carry superior firepower. Of course, a superior weapon (pistol) is held in your more co-ordinated hand, which means your knife will be drawn by the other.

That's why I don't like a pistol holster with a knife sheath attached. You wind up with your blaster in your right hand, and if you need your knife you have to call, "time out."

To rip your knife out in a hurry, cut open its sheath and then sew the sheath back together with weaker thread so you can yank your blade out quickly by busting through those threads. Parachutists often do this so it will be easy to draw their knife and cut lines to get themselves out of trouble. Divers do something similar with soldering wire. Use the wire to hold your knife at any angle; perhaps upside down in a sheath. The wire holds it securely, but a quick yank pulls the wire apart so you have your knife in your hand.

Push-handle knives are frequently employed as belt buckles. I just can't get enthused. The knife itself is difficult to use for slicing because human wrist flex doesn't work that way. As we said in defense, you have to over-extend dangerously to score with it. Finally, when you pull a knife on anyone un-armed, you're **wrong.** You're **even more wrong** if you get surprised and the other guy has a gun.

The way you carry your knife depends primarily on its intended use. Hopefully, all of your knives will hang from your belt, which means you don't consider yourself a knife fighter.

That's great. May your life be long and full of peace . . .

Chapter 11

THE KNIFE AS A DEFENSIVE TOOL

We wrote two separate chapters on self defense because our judicial system treats males and females differently when charged with assault. If a woman slices an attacker's hands and wrists, society shrugs its shoulders and moves forward. If a man uses a knife on somebody, however, the perp-victim goes to a hospital and the victorious citizen goes to jail.

Also, their respective combat requirements are different. Men are stronger, and they frequently get into fights where the face-off arises out of pride. On the other hand, women most often come into conflict because somebody preceives them to be a good victim. Women need to learn some simple moves and procedures to survive in a porn-infested world.

We don't expect women to engage in knife combat voluntarily. For that matter, we don't advise men to do it either, although we know some will.

But given the way crime pays in modern times, the effectiveness of our criminal justice system with early prison releases, some drug-crazed goon with a lead pipe could attack at any time. In a surprise attack, your knife may be all you have. Knives don't cost much; therefore, apply the American Express slogan, and "Don't leave home without one."

The idea in knife combat is not to get hurt. Above all, you don't want to go to a hospital to catch up on your Jello. Therefore, the first rule is: **Never. . . !**

NEVER GET INTO KNIFE-TO-KNIFE COMBAT.
YOU MIGHT LOSE, OR TIE

Of course, losing violates the survivors' maxim: "Better to be judged by twelve than finally judged by One." A tie in a knife fight means both parties make a blood donation to mother earth.

All of the above means you have two chances out of three of spilling your own blood.

If the other guy draws a knife on you, you can draw yours, but you'd better be telling your feet to get wings. You may be the best blocker in the world, you may know how to parry like a French swordsman, but nothing—-nothing at all prevents injury like safe distance from danger.

So, rule number two is:

KEEP OUT OF RANGE

Every so often you will see a knife with a handguard designed to be used also as brass knuckles. Like a deck gun on a submarine, it's a dumb idea. You can't use the knuckles unless you get into close range, where a decent karate man can demolish your teeth fast enough to make a dentist envious.

Never risk it and go in close. Stay away from this guy; wait for him to make the mistakes, and then counter-attack by slicing on exposed extremities. That way, your enemy can't reach you, and every time he tries, he suffers a severe loss.

Somebody with some brains has taught the Russian Special Forces the value of range, especially in a knife fight. Their Spitz/Natz carries a great knife, and when they line up to knife-fight, they push a button to spring the blade 25 meters ahead. Surprise.

In *RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK*, Harrison Ford was faced—- not by a knife—but by an expert, sword- wielding terrorist. Harrison drew his pistol and blew the problem away. Do the same if you can.

If they can't get near you, they can't hurt you. That's why we recommend that you learn to use a Bo (long wooden staff) in Book II of *Everybody's Outdoor Survival Guide.* The Bo allows you to strike your enemy from a safe distance. Even better, attach your knife to the end of the Bo. You are far better off to turn your knife into a spear. With our method, it doesn't take too much time. Any broomstick or tree limb will work. Just one good maneuver, and the fight should be over. If the pole is smooth, you simply line up on your target, and take a pool-cue shot, then retract it as fast as you shoved it out.

Above and beyond all, don't get mad. You will need to think your way through some quick combat moves with full concentration, and anger will block those thought patterns. Stay cool.

Rule number three is:

TWO HANDS FOR SURVIVORS.

If you aren't using both hands on one weapon, such as a spear, you should use a separate weapon in each hand. With only one weapon in one hand, you go into a fracas using 50% of your capability. So, you're going to be half effective. Worse, with only one weapon—-a knife—in one hand, you allow your opponent the luxury of defending against only the knife. One hand empty is dumb. Two, at least, will make 'em worry.

A tonfa (side handled baton used by police) would be great, although you may not have one around. You need something easy to carry, something that you probably would have around all the time. One good idea is to convert a pair of nung chuks into a key chain. Out of the factory, "chucks" are a bear to use; you smack yourself at least a dozen times while trying to learn to smack an opponent.

With the striking stick shortened, you don't have to worry about the free-swinging end coming back at you. Put some weight on it. A lead fishing sinker for ocean bottom fishing will provide some good oomph. Hang it with the keys on the business end of the chain.

Learn to use a key chain like this, and you will set up some terrific openings for your stronger hand—the one with the knife in it.

What weapon you fill your weak hand with doesn't matter a whole lot, just make sure to use **something**. When you talk about using a knife in a self defense situation, you are talking about deadly combat; you simply cannot afford to finish second in a field of two.

Hollywood directors like to charge their movie-moments with excitement, so they always have the bad guy stab or swing wildly. If that's where you took your knife training, plan on moving near Hollywood permanently, like Forest Lawn Mortuary. Stabbing is a bad, no, a terrible idea. Why? In order to do it you have to close the range. If your opponent is similarly armed, you could easily wind up exchanging stab wounds.

Rule number four is:

KEEP YOUR BALANCE

Once off balance with a knife in your hand, you set yourself up for attack (you can't block well from an off-balance position). Forget the wild slice. You can't afford to make any lunge, side swipe, etc. which will pull you off balance when your opponent ducks, or steps neatly to the rear. You may suffer injury, and/or lose your weapon.

The most important rule of knife fighting is simple: **Don't!** If you must, remember:

KEEP OUT OF RANGE.
USE TWO HANDS.
STAY IN BALANCE.

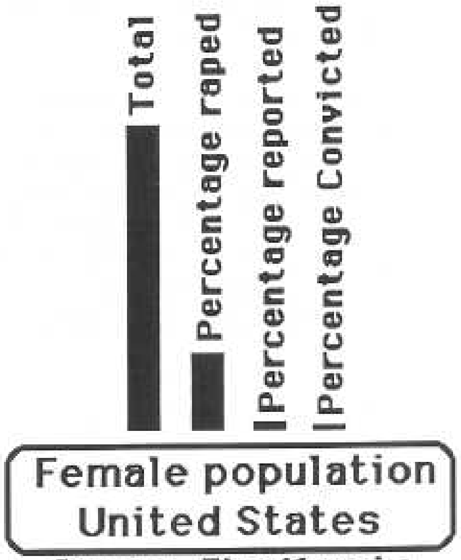
Do all of the above, and you will live to enjoy your grandchildren.

Chapter 12

KNIVES IN WOMENS' SELF DEFENSE

Rape is a common crime in this country; one occurs every six minutes, and the record-keepers believe many are unreported. Since I originally wrote that statement, things have gotten worse. According to the 1992 *Information Please Almanac*, released rapists are 10.5 times more likely to be re-arrested for the same crime than first- time arresteds. I believe I know why this is, but I can't fix the problem. You can, however, and Path Finder hired an expert, Craig Huber, to write the *Complete Defense Manual*, due for publication in mid-1992.

Time Magazine recently reported that one in four American women will become rape victims.



Source: Time Magazine

For most of us, it's hard to comprehend the horror of the crime. I worked for a time on the Youth Crisis Hotline, where we handled 1-800-HIT-HOME hotline phone calls for help from youths 18 and under from all over the nation. Some of the calls were utterly depressing, especially those coming from raped teenagers. Even more depressing is this: They were often manipulated into believing the rape was their fault. In addition to feeling abused, filthy, and worthless, they had been brainwashed into feeling guilty. Odd as it might sound, our first order of business on the phone was to convince them they were victims.

Given the declining state of security for women, we feel it's wise to prepare. If your chances of being abused are one in four, perhaps it's time you decided against becoming a victim. Of course nobody volunters for victim; but, I want you to go a step further. Decide now, it's either you or them, and plan accordingly.

Since the nature of the crime pits a more muscular and violence-prone male against a female, you really need an edge. Double razor-edge is better. Thus, **we turn to the knife.** Knives are substantially cheaper than most handguns, and require a lot less maintenance. Besides that, handguns present a lot of travelling difficulties. Different states have different laws and they won't recognize other's permits.

It's difficult for many women to become "knife-fighters." I have interviewed unassaulted women who are squeamish about cutting someone else's body. A writer we recently hired to write on defense teaches classes on self defense for women and tells me, "the first problem is to develop a mindset. You don't have to become a victim. Better cold steel in the perpetrator's body than contact." Think about AIDS, too. In this atmosphere, I believe mortal fear would and should be the state of mind of any woman defending herself.

Rape victims adopt a more aggressive attitude after the crime. They would do just about anything to avoid PTSD, or Post-Traumatic-Stress-Disorder. The rape crisis center counselor reports that PTSD women live in fear, can't sleep nights, and wake up in terror upon hearing a strange noise. Fear imprisons them for life.

One quick piece of advice about using a knife: **Don't bluff.** Most street-wise criminals, themselves, are masters at bluffing, and they don't fool. Once your knife is out, don't even think, "scared to cut." In your mind, you must prepare to be vicious, and you have to be ready to use your knife—with vigor.

Legalities aside, you can do just about anything, and the fine arguments about whether the force you used was excessive probably will never even be heard. Just in case you do have some kind of legal problem after an attack, however, listen to the advice of Sidney Filson, a martial arts writer for many years. With regards to the investigating police she wrote three vital words: **"Tell them nothing."**

The rape crisis center in Honolulu reports that over 50% of rapes are committed by attackers who are under alcoholic influence, so you can't rely very much on any humane inhibitions. That's one reason the old advice on submitting is being changed. In a rape situation, you will be dealing with some rough characters. An aggressive defense is better. Just don't make any stabbing maneuvers unless you have a clear unobstructed opening; they're too risky. Keep your distance and use the move we teach you. Also, carry more than one knife. A *Clipit* in the side of your shoe or boot would allow you to draw your knees up if you were flat on the ground and get your hands on a great weapon.

We are going to teach you to preserve your integrity and sanity, but you have to face the issue. The time to prepare mentally is now; we can't do that for you. Decide now that you will set aside fear and act according to plan. Once your mind is made up, buy the knife you need as well as a toy rubber knife, and begin practice.

Your knife defense will work with one simple maneuver: Flick your wrist.

To do this most effectively, you need a double-edged knife with a razor-sharp (on both sides) blade. On a folder, or switch-blade, the back side of the blade is exposed, and therefore dangerous to carry. For ladies' defense, we like the *Clipit* because it carries so you can easily get to it, opens with one hand, and **cuts very well.**

handle, correct measurement, 107
handle, grip improvement, 109
heights, critical woods' 13
heat, cozy camp, from cut wire, 84
heat, radiant camp, 84
inertia, knife whacking, 24
installation, clinometers 9
jungle floor light, auto, 21
kitchen inventory, 54
knife pommel, hammer with, 25
knife choices, criteria, 32
knife defense, rules, 118, 19
knife defense, women, 121
knife, as signal mirror, 26
knives, compass included, 41
knives, critical inventory, list, 30
knives, fixed blade, 40
knives, folding belt lockback, 39
knives, folding, one-hand open, 37
knives, hunting, 40
knives, made by self, 143
knives, pocket, blade types, 36
Kukri blades, 51
land navigation, PAUL 11
light for night knife, auto, 5
machax, cutting curve use, 101, 51
machete, knife converted, 23
materials for self-made knife, 144
map location, knife, 14
metals in knives, 94
modification, knife, 9
mountain, slope distance for shoot, 15
murder, post-robbery cause, 37
PAKA, Pivot Action Knife Ax, 133
pocket knives, arguments, 35
points on blade, uses for, 99
pommel pull, with lever, 112
practice defense, rubber knife, 128
quillion on handles, need, 111
rape, frequency of 121
rape, victim's mindset, 123

rape, DefCon system, 124,**125**
rape prevention, second weapon, 126
rape prevention, voice effect, 127
rappeling, rope measurement 13
river cross, with knife 15
safety, with knife as spear, 27
saw teeth on blade, 44
saws, wire, blunt cut off, 81
serrated edge, theory, 95, 96
sharpen, knife edge angles, 61
sharpeners, round rod, 63
sheath, improvement, 19
sheath loop, glue lines, 20
shaving test, sharpness, 67
skinning game, 73
skinning knife, curved, 74
slack belt, edge result, 57
sleep cozy, knife use, 84
spear, quick convert, 28
sticks, ceramic sharpening, 62
stones, dish out problem, 59
stropping on leather, 66
survival blades, 46
T-handle blades, danger, 52
tang, significance, 94
tool list, outdoor, from knives, 79, 80
trap, common woods plug, 34
time, telling, knife, 12, 6
time, predefense with blades, 53
tree heights, knife measure, 11
used knives, cheap, 139
utility to weight ratio 5
water crossing, with knife 15
water canoe, from knife, 91
wire edge on blade, 65
women's knife, ideal, 31

KNIFE PUBLICATIONS

If you want to know the best about anything, read more. Other knife publications not only keep you informed with the latest and greatest, but some contain ads from various manufacturers featuring the hottest knife deals and the latest products.

Because you bought this book, **you're entitled to subscription discounts**. Call or write for subscription rates: From those rates, discount the following amounts: From the regular subscription rate, take your discount and enclose the balance in payment. Quote discount by referring to *Everybody's Knife Bible*, from Path Finder.

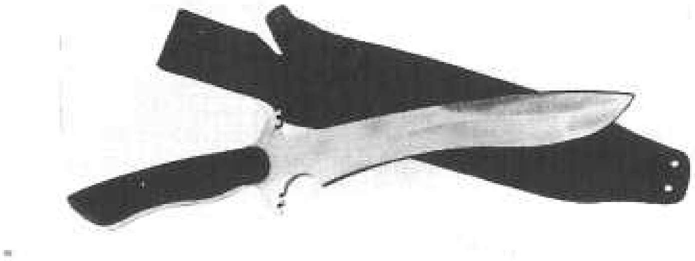
Knife World. **$5. discount**. Write: 730 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37917. Published in newspaper tabloid form, these people know what they're doing. It contains articles for the collector, as well as articles on knives for special uses. They list books for sale on nothing but knives, and always publish an excellent classified section containing some good deals. Listings and locations for knife shows appear regularly.

Blade Magazine. **$2. discount**. A slick magazine sold all over the country. They hire writers who know knives and feature all kinds of articles. Highly respected in the trade, they feature knifemaker's and manufacturers' ads coupled with a directory which feature the latest creations. They also feature ads for Jantz and other suppliers of make-it-yourself kits and supplies for home knife crafters. Write: Blade Magazine, 6237 Vance Rd., Suites 1&2, Chattanooga, TN 37421.

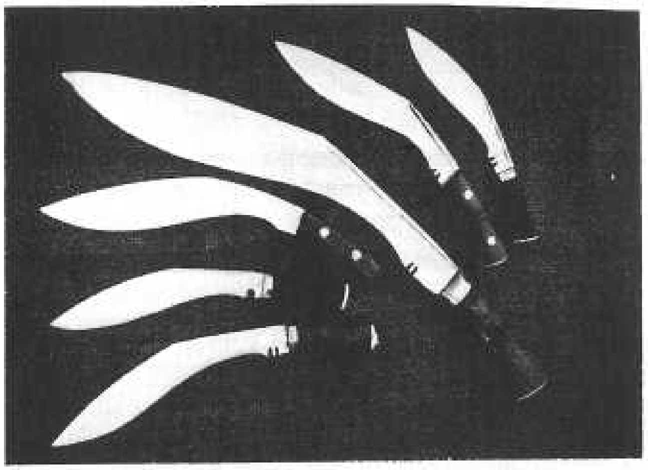
Knives Illustrated. **$2. discount**. McMullen and Yee Publishing, 2145 La Palma Ave, Anaheim, CA 92801. This is a succesful quarterly debating now about becoming a bi-monthly publication. They feature knife writers and review anything to do with knives. Many issues feature step-by-step know how on knife construction.

OTHER, WORTH WHILE, RELATED PUBLICATIONS

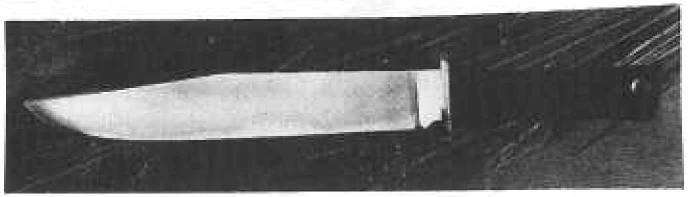
American Survival Magazine **$2. discount**. 2145 La Palma Ave, Anaheim, CA 92801. Top rate magazine. They give survival a wider definition than most. Therefore, the magazine contains useful information for anyone who wants to live. What's out there that might hurt you? Whatever it might be, this magazine covers the problem and provides the solutions. Last year, for example, they ran articles on special survival knives, AIDS prevention, and several good firearms.



The Mamba, by Blackjack. The company made big reputation on this model. Handguard is user- friendly. Choil on blade gives control. Knife comes sharpened forever by factory. Lower blade curvature gives super cutting effect.



Kukris. Lower blade curvatures make cutting edge entry easier.



Trailmaster. Cold Steel. Highly touted blade by Alaskan hunters. This shaves hair right out of the box. Pommel hole is important.